From: EPA News [noreply@cision.com]

**Sent**: 9/13/2021 12:36:01 PM

To: Harris, Michael [harris.michael@epa.gov]

**Subject**: EPA Chicago - Weekend Media Report - Monday, September 13, 2021

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## Report Overview:

Total Clips (24)

Energy (8)

PFAS (1)

Waste - Hazardous (3)

Waste - Solid Waste Management (2)

Water - Drinking (6)

Water - Surface (3)

Other (1)

	Headline	Date	Cutlet	Outlet State		
Energy	Energy (8)					
	Bill that would save Bryon nuclear plant passed by Illinois House	09/11/2021	Rock River Times, The	IL	<b>0</b> 23	
	Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board	09/11/2021	News Gazette, The	IN	802	
	Illinois House passes energy bill that would keep Dresden operating	09/10/2021	Morris Herald- News Online	IL	<b>1</b> 02	
	Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board	09/10/2021	Herald-News, The	IL		
	Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board	09/10/2021	Kane County Chronicle	IL		
	Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board	09/10/2021	Daily Chronicle	IL		
	Illinois House passes energy bill with labor,	09/10/2021	Northwest Herald	IL		

٧	environmental groups on board Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board	09/10/2021	Sauk Valley Newspapers	IL	
PFAS (	(1) EPA to Set New				
	PFAS Discharge Limits	09/11/2021	Products Finishing Online	ОН	
Waste	– Hazardous (3)				
	Fuel leak cleanup continues in Flat Rock	09/10/2021	Monroe News, The	мі	
	Fuel leak cleanup continues in Flat Rock	09/10/2021	Monroe News Online, The	МІ	
	Portsmouth excavations a win for waste disposition, cleanup, site reuse	09/10/2021	Portsmouth Daily Times	ОН	
Waste	– Solid Waste Manager	nent (2)			
	Illinois American Water flushing water mains	09/11/2021	Telegraph Online, The	IL	
	Illinois American issues Alton sewer work update	09/10/2021	Telegraph Online, The	IL	■023
Water -	- Drinking (6)				
	E. coli detected in village of Plainfield water on Wednesday, staff unaware until Friday	09/12/2021	Herald-News Online, The	IL	<b>1</b> 023
	E. Coli Update: Testing Shows Bacteria Not 'A Systematic Problem'	09/12/2021	Patch	NY	<b>1</b> 023
	3 Water Utilities to Buy That Outperformed Industry YTD	09/10/2021	Zacks Investment Research	IL	8023
	Boil order in effect for village of Plainfield until further notice	09/10/2021	Herald-News, The	IL	
	Could Benton Harbor water crisis be the next Flint?; Groups ask EPA to intervene because of high lead levels	09/10/2021	Detroit Free Press	MI	

	E. Coli Contamination In Plainfield Water: Village	09/10/2021	Patch	NY	
Water	- Surface (3)			***************************************	
	Consider exclusion fencing around waterways	09/11/2021	Ashland Times- Gazette	ОН	
	Petition filed with EPA over Benton Harbor water lead levels	09/10/2021	Herald- Palladium, The	МІ	
	Petition filed with EPA over Benton Harbor water lead levels	09/10/2021	Herald- Palladium Online, The	MI	
Other (	(1)				
	Contract awarded for crumbling road repair	09/10/2021	Times-Reporter, The	ОН	

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News Date: 09/11/2021

Outlet Full Name: Rock River Times, The

Outlet State: IL

News Text: ... a news conference after the bill's passage that it requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency,

Illinois Commerce...

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News Headline: Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board | 0

News Date: 09/11/2021

Outlet Full Name: News Gazette, The

Outlet State: IN

News Text: ... a news conference after the bill's passage that it requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency,

Illinois Commerce...

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News Headline: Illinois House passes energy bill that would keep Dresden operating | Ū⊠

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Morris Herald-News Online

Outlet State: IL

News Text: ...a news conference after the bill's passage that it requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency,

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News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-News, The

Outlet State: IL

**News Text:** SPRINGFIELD â€" The Illinois House approved an energy regulation and decarbonization bill Thursday, a major step forward for a wide-ranging omnibus bill that had eluded lawmakers throughout the legislative session and the governor's three years in office.

The measure that aims to bring Illinois' energy generation sector to 100 percent carbon-free by 2050 and 50 percent renewable by 2040 still needs approval from the Senate, which planned to caucus Friday to discuss the measure, Senate Bill 2408, before a Monday return.

It passed the House 83-33 shortly before 9:30 p.m. Thursday. Gov. JB Pritzker quickly issued a news release saying he would sign it.

"This is what legislating is supposed to look like," House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, said in closing floor debate. "It's about good faith negotiating. It's about advocating for the interests in our districts back home. And it's about compromise in order to arrive at a product that benefits people in your districts, and ours."

Environmental groups extolled the decarbonization language, which aims to take coal, gas and other carbon-emitting power plants off the grid between 2030 and 2045, depending on the energy source and ownership structure.

Union groups praised the bill's language requiring that all major renewable construction projects must have project labor agreements in place to hire union labor, while non-residential projects, with few exceptions, would be required to pay a prevailing wage.

Republicans, meanwhile, warned of losses of downstate jobs, substantial consumer bill increases and potential grid reliability issues as fossil fuel plants are forced offline, although it passed on a bipartisan roll call.

Decarbonization, renewables

Environmental and labor groups were in opposition on the issue of municipal coal-fired power plants coming into Thursday. Two plants that were at issue include Springfield's City, Water, Light and Power, and a plant funded by several municipalities in Illinois that is located in Marissa in the Metro East Area, called the Prairie State Energy Campus.

The final language requires the plants to be carbon-free by 2045, either by going offline or installing sequestration technology. By 2035, municipal plants must cut emissions by 45 percent. If a plant doesn't meet that goal by the end of 2035, the power plant will have until June 30, 2038, to either retire a portion of carbon-emitting units or meet the decarbonization goal some other way.

The bill also provides more than \$600 million over five years to three nuclear plants owned by Exelon Corporation – in Byron, Dresden and Braidwood. The company has stated it will not refuel the Byron plant after Monday, and it would begin decommissioning at that time, unless the General Assembly passed legislation to ensure its financial viability.

All told, negotiators believe the new bill is expected to raise residential electric bills by about 3-4 percent, commercial bills by about 5-6 percent, and industrial bills by about 7-8 percent, although the rollout for the various programs would be staggered over time and increases would vary by year.

The ratepayer money will fund equity programs for the clean energy workforce and new investment in renewable energy, among other initiatives.

It would also incentivize the transition of coal plants to solar facilities or battery storage sites, and it permits downstate utility Ameren to establish two utility-scale solar plants.

In a late addition to the bill, the city of Zion in Lake County, which is the site of a closed nuclear plant, would be eligible for grants "in proportional shares of \$15 per kilogram of spent nuclear fuel stored at such a facility," according to the bill.

The charge on a customer bill for renewables would increase over time from about 2 percent to 4 percent, a \$360 million annual increase to fund projects such as wind and solar.

That investment is an effort to increase the portion of the state's energy contributed by renewables, which is currently between 7 and 8 percent. Nuclear made up about 58 percent of the state's electricity generation in 2020, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Downstate Republican lawmakers raised concerns that the portion of the state south of Interstate-80, on the MISO electric grid, is served by only one nuclear plant. The part of the state on the PJM grid, for the most part north of I-80, has the state's other five nuclear plants.

"You're not doing what you think you're doing with this bill," Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield, said in floor debate, warning that closing the Springfield and Marissa coal plants would make downstate reliant on out-of-state coal while putting central Illinoisans out of work.

Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, noted in a news conference after the bill's passage that it requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Commerce Commission and Illinois Power Agency to conduct a study at five-year intervals "to determine if there is grid reliability."

If there are not enough renewables and nuclear power available to keep the grid running, that means coal or gas plants could be kept online to meet peak demand.

"I think it's very legitimate," Hoffman said of grid reliability concerns. "And so we built that into the bill, though, there are reliability checkpoints every five years. That was very important to all of us because we want the lights to go on, we want the heating and air conditioning to work."

Hoffman said representatives of Prairie State believe federal subsidies will be included in an infrastructure plan before Congress that will help fund carbon sequestration infrastructure at coal plants as well.

Republicans also expressed concerns about language allowing a private company, Invenergy, to invoke eminent domain, in seven counties for the purpose of a single transmission line, the Grain Belt Express direct current transmission line.

Equity, ethics, EVs

Included in the rate hike is \$180 million in annual funding for the newly-created Energy Transition Assistance Fund, which funds various workforce initiatives.

The bill directs the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to create the Clean Jobs Workforce Network program, which establishes 13 hubs in different communities across the state that rely on community-based organizations to provide job training and a career pipeline for equity-focused populations.

Other programs include a pre-apprenticeship program to prepare individuals for the renewable energy infrastructure workforce; and a contractor incubator to aid small clean energy businesses.

It also establishes a "Climate Bank" within the Illinois Finance Authority to help fund renewable projects, as well as a Jobs and Justice Fund, run by a nonprofit entity, aimed at ensuring "the benefits of the clean energy economy are equitably distributed." Another program aims to train individuals recently released from incarceration for careers in the renewable energy field.

Lawmakers also noted the bill tightens utility ethics laws by ending formulaic rate increases, strengthening economic disclosure requirements to include spouses employed by utilities, and creating Public Utility Ethics and Compliance Monitor to ensure utilities comply with existing and new laws.

It will also require the Illinois Commerce Commission to investigate whether ComEd misused ratepayer funds in connection to an ongoing federal investigation of the company's Springfield influence, and if it is found that they did, the money must be returned to ratepayers.

The bill also sets a goal of putting 1 million electric vehicles on Illinois roads by 2030, aiming to do so through incentives, such as offering rebates on the installation of charging infrastructure in certain communities, provided prevailing wage is paid on the construction labor.

It also creates a Displaced Energy Worker Bill of Rights, requiring the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to give advance notice of power plant or coal mine closures and to notify workers of available assistance programs.

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News Headline: Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board |

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Kane County Chronicle

Outlet State: IL

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News Headline: Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board |

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Daily Chronicle

Outlet State: IL

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News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Northwest Herald

Outlet State: IL

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The bill also sets a goal of putting 1 million electric vehicles on Illinois roads by 2030, aiming to do so through incentives, such as offering rebates on the installation of charging infrastructure in certain communities, provided prevailing wage is paid on the construction labor.

It also creates a Displaced Energy Worker Bill of Rights, requiring the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to give advance notice of power plant or coal mine closures and to notify workers of available assistance programs.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

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News Headline: Illinois House passes energy bill with labor, environmental groups on board |

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Sauk Valley Newspapers

Outlet State: IL

**News Text:** SPRINGFIELD â€" The Illinois House approved an energy regulation and decarbonization bill Thursday, a major step forward for a wide-ranging omnibus bill that had eluded lawmakers throughout the legislative session and the governor's three years in office.

The measure that aims to bring Illinois' energy generation sector to 100 percent carbon-free by 2050 and 50 percent renewable by 2040 still needs approval from the Senate, which planned to caucus Friday to discuss the measure, Senate Bill 2408, before a Monday return.

It passed the House 83-33 shortly before 9:30 p.m. Thursday. Gov. JB Pritzker quickly issued a news release saying he would sign it.

"This is what legislating is supposed to look like," House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, said in closing floor debate. "It's about good faith negotiating. It's about advocating for the interests in our districts back home. And it's about compromise in order to arrive at a product that benefits people in your districts, and ours."

Environmental groups extolled the decarbonization language, which aims to take coal, gas and other carbon-emitting power plants off the grid between 2030 and 2045, depending on the energy source and ownership structure.

Union groups praised the bill's language requiring that all major renewable construction projects must have project labor agreements in place to hire union labor, while non-residential projects, with few exceptions, would be required to pay a prevailing wage.

Republicans, meanwhile, warned of losses of downstate jobs, substantial consumer bill increases and potential grid reliability issues as fossil fuel plants are forced offline, although it passed on a bipartisan roll call.

## Decarbonization, renewables

Environmental and labor groups were in opposition on the issue of municipal coal-fired power plants coming into Thursday. Two plants that were at issue include Springfield's City, Water, Light and Power, and a plant funded by several municipalities in Illinois that is located in Marissa in the Metro East Area, called the Prairie State Energy Campus.

The final language requires the plants to be carbon-free by 2045, either by going offline or installing sequestration technology. By 2035, municipal plants must cut emissions by 45 percent. If a plant doesn't meet that goal by the end of 2035, the power plant will have until June 30, 2038, to either retire a portion of carbon-emitting units or meet the decarbonization goal some other way.

The bill also provides more than \$600 million over five years to three nuclear plants owned by Exelon Corporation – in Byron, Dresden and Braidwood. The company has stated it will not refuel the Byron plant after Monday, and it would begin decommissioning at that time, unless the General Assembly passed legislation to ensure its financial viability.

All told, negotiators believe the new bill is expected to raise residential electric bills by about 3-4 percent, commercial bills by about 5-6 percent, and industrial bills by about 7-8 percent, although the rollout for the various programs would be staggered over time and increases would vary by year.

The ratepayer money will fund equity programs for the clean energy workforce and new investment in renewable energy, among other initiatives.

It would also incentivize the transition of coal plants to solar facilities or battery storage sites, and it permits downstate utility Ameren to establish two utility-scale solar plants.

In a late addition to the bill, the city of Zion in Lake County, which is the site of a closed nuclear plant, would be eligible for grants "in proportional shares of \$15 per kilogram of spent nuclear fuel stored at such a facility," according to the bill.

The charge on a customer bill for renewables would increase over time from about 2 percent to 4 percent, a \$360 million annual increase to fund projects such as wind and solar.

That investment is an effort to increase the portion of the state's energy contributed by renewables, which is currently between 7 and 8 percent. Nuclear made up about 58 percent of the state's electricity generation in 2020, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Downstate Republican lawmakers raised concerns that the portion of the state south of Interstate-80, on the MISO electric grid, is served by only one nuclear plant. The part of the state on the PJM grid, for the most part north of I-80, has the state's other five nuclear plants.

"You're not doing what you think you're doing with this bill," Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield, said in floor debate, warning that closing the Springfield and Marissa coal plants would make downstate reliant on out-of-state coal while

putting central Illinoisans out of work.

Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, noted in a news conference after the bill's passage that it requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Commerce Commission and Illinois Power Agency to conduct a study at five-year intervals "to determine if there is grid reliability."

If there are not enough renewables and nuclear power available to keep the grid running, that means coal or gas plants could be kept online to meet peak demand.

"I think it's very legitimate," Hoffman said of grid reliability concerns. "And so we built that into the bill, though, there are reliability checkpoints every five years. That was very important to all of us because we want the lights to go on, we want the heating and air conditioning to work."

Hoffman said representatives of Prairie State believe federal subsidies will be included in an infrastructure plan before Congress that will help fund carbon sequestration infrastructure at coal plants as well.

Republicans also expressed concerns about language allowing a private company, Invenergy, to invoke eminent domain, in seven counties for the purpose of a single transmission line, the Grain Belt Express direct current transmission line.

Equity, ethics, EVs

Included in the rate hike is \$180 million in annual funding for the newly-created Energy Transition Assistance Fund, which funds various workforce initiatives.

The bill directs the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to create the Clean Jobs Workforce Network program, which establishes 13 hubs in different communities across the state that rely on community-based organizations to provide job training and a career pipeline for equity-focused populations.

Other programs include a pre-apprenticeship program to prepare individuals for the renewable energy infrastructure workforce; and a contractor incubator to aid small clean energy businesses.

It also establishes a "Climate Bank" within the Illinois Finance Authority to help fund renewable projects, as well as a Jobs and Justice Fund, run by a nonprofit entity, aimed at ensuring "the benefits of the clean energy economy are equitably distributed." Another program aims to train individuals recently released from incarceration for careers in the renewable energy field.

Lawmakers also noted the bill tightens utility ethics laws by ending formulaic rate increases, strengthening economic disclosure requirements to include spouses employed by utilities, and creating Public Utility Ethics and Compliance Monitor to ensure utilities comply with existing and new laws.

It will also require the Illinois Commerce Commission to investigate whether ComEd misused ratepayer funds in connection to an ongoing federal investigation of the company's Springfield influence, and if it is found that they did, the money must be returned to ratepayers.

The bill also sets a goal of putting 1 million electric vehicles on Illinois roads by 2030, aiming to do so through incentives, such as offering rebates on the installation of charging infrastructure in certain communities, provided prevailing wage is paid on the construction labor.

It also creates a Displaced Energy Worker Bill of Rights, requiring the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to give advance notice of power plant or coal mine closures and to notify workers of available assistance programs.

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News Headline: EPA to Set New PFAS Discharge Limits | ∅ ⊠

News Date: 09/11/2021

Outlet Full Name: Products Finishing Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ... Discharge Standards for PFAS in Surface Finishing Operations The U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) has released its...

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News Headline: Fuel leak cleanup continues in Flat Rock |

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Monroe News, The

Outlet State: MI

**News Text:** FLAT ROCK -- Health officials will soon begin screening homes in the City of Flat Rock for benzene as part of the ongoing efforts to clean up a substantial fuel leak that has polluted a portion of the city's sanitary sewer system.

Kory Groetsch, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Environmental Public Health Director for the Division of Environmental Health, said at least some residents should expect to start receiving calls to schedule screenings within the next few days.

Groetsch made this announcement during a virtual town hall held Wednesday night that included Flat Rock Mayor Mark Hammond, as well as representatives from Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Wayne County Health Department, and Ford Motor Company.

Over 1,000 residents have received precautionary evacuation notices from the city stemming from a fuel leak that is believed to have originated from Ford's Flat Rock Assembly Plant. An estimated 1,400 gallons of unleaded fuel, containing the carcinogenic chemical benzene, is believed to have leaked from the plant into the city's sanitary sewer system, necessitating an ongoing flushing and cleaning process of the contaminated lines.

An investigation is ongoing into how exactly the fuel was able to enter the city's system.

Groetsch said the process of screening individual homes for benzene cannot begin until the flushing and cleaning of the sewer system is complete.

"Everything we've been doing since we've been here has been data driven, to the best of our technology, and we're going to continue that process," he said. "I totally get (the frustration of residents), but we're not going to guess. We need results, and we need your help to get into the houses where we need the data... We will be needing to communicate with you, and you are welcome to call us and we will work with you...

"...I know we're very, very close to being able to start doing that (testing), but right now... It doesn't make sense to go test in a house until we have sufficient data to demonstrate that all this flushing effort (has been successful)."

EPA on-scene coordinator Tricia Edwards said that while her team is seeing good results from the ongoing flushing process, they still don't feel they have enough data to move to the step of screening individual homes.

"We aren't there yet," Edwards said. "...It's going to be an ongoing effort for a little bit... The more flushing the better in this situation, right? No harm, no foul, so we're going to continue to do the flushing throughout that system."

Ford has committed to aid the city and its residents as they attempt to recover from this ongoing situation. The company has already pledged \$1 million to the cleanup efforts, and it is providing lodging and gift cards to residents within the area of the city that received precautionary evacuation notices.

Mayor Hammond said that the city is continuing to work with Ford on a way for the company to reimburse residents for other expenses they will incur as part of this incident.

"What we're telling (residents)... is to keep their receipts," Hammond said. "We're working on a reimbursement method to take care of their funding for those, but they will be reimbursed. We're trying to work the mechanism out through Ford, and we haven't established that yet as we speak, but it's being worked on."

Bob Holycross, Ford's vice president of Sustainability, Environment and Safety Engineering, said his company is "going to be there as long as (the city and its residents) need us to be."

"We are making additional meal cards available to evacuees, we know some folks didn't initially get them as part of the initial outreach, so we're going to continue to do that with additional cards," Holycross said. "We are making those resources available for those extra needs..."

The entire virtual town hall can be viewed on the City of Flat Rock's Facebook page.

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News Headline: Fuel leak cleanup continues in Flat Rock | <sup>∅</sup> □

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Monroe News Online, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...as representatives from Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA), Wayne County...

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News Headline: Portsmouth excavations a win for waste disposition, cleanup, site reuse |

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Portsmouth Daily Times

Outlet State: OH

**News Text:** PIKE COUNTY– Work is underway at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Portsmouth Site on the first of five legacy groundwater plumes to be excavated for soil needed in the newly constructed On-Site Waste Disposal Facility (OSWDF).

"The five-million cubic-yard OSWDF requires a 2.4-to-1 ratio of fill material to waste,― said Jeff Bettinger, Portsmouth Site lead for DOE's Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office. "By using soil from legacy groundwater plumes and old landfills onsite, we avoid buying clean fill for the OSWDF, expedite the environmental cleanup of the site, and provide more land for future reuse. It's a win, win, win.―

Since the 1990s, plume contaminants (mainly the once-common degreasing solvent trichloroethylene) have been pumped from the ground and treated. Such operations tend to be slow and can be costly over time.

"By digging up the remaining contaminant sources and contaminated soils, the cleanup of the groundwater plumes is significantly accelerated,― Bettinger added.

Removal and consolidation of legacy environmental concerns, including groundwater plumes and old landfills, also makes more land available for future community reuse and reindustrialization a benefit for stakeholders who want to build a sustainable economic future at the site.

DOE has already begun the process of transferring clean parcels of land to the designated community reuse organization, the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI). The first parcel, 80 acres, was transferred to the organization in 2018, and another 220 acres is scheduled for transfer this year.

The excavation, waste placement, and fill work is performed under a federal Natural Resources Damage Assessment settlement and final finding and order from the director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. These regulatory approvals authorize excavation of five existing groundwater plumes and five closed landfills.

Each individual landfill or plume requires an approved excavation work plan to ensure safety, protectiveness, and compliance with all applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements. The excavated materials will then be used as engineered fill in the OSWDF according to the approved waste acceptance criteria governing what is permissible for the disposal facility.

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News Headline: Illinois American Water flushing water mains |

News Date: 09/11/2021

Outlet Full Name: Telegraph Online, The

Outlet State: IL

News Text: ... American Water at 800-422-2782. For more details, contact the Illinois Environmental Protection

Agency at 217-782-1020 or...

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News Headline: Illinois American issues Alton sewer work update |  $\emptyset$ 

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Telegraph Online, The

Outlet State: IL

News Text: ALTON - Illinois American Water continues to make progress on its s work to separate the Alton

combined sewer system and install new sanitary...

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News Headline: E. coli detected in village of Plainfield water on Wednesday, staff unaware until Friday | ⊎⊠

News Date: 09/12/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-News Online, The

Outlet State: IL

News Text: ...coli on Wednesday. The testing company did a follow-up test per Illinois Environmental Protection

Agency protocol but did not...

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News Headline: E. Coli Update: Testing Shows Bacteria Not 'A Systematic Problem' | ⊎⊠

News Date: 09/12/2021 Outlet Full Name: Patch

**Outlet State: NY** 

News Text: ...updates from Patch.Let's go! Following protocol from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency,

officials sent out...

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News Headline: 3 Water Utilities to Buy That Outperformed Industry YTD | ⊎⊠

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Zacks Investment Research

Outlet State: IL

News Text: ...it exposes water to the possibility of contamination. Per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an

estimated \$750-billion...

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News Headline: Boil order in effect for village of Plainfield until further notice |

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-News, The

Outlet State: IL

News Text: The village of Plainfield issued a boil order Friday because its water supply is contaminated with E. coli.

This means human or animal waste may be contaminating the water. E. coli can cause cramps, diarrhea, headaches or nausea. Infants, young children and anyone with a severely compromised immune system are especially at risk for becoming severely ill.

The bacteria was found in the water Wednesday. A break in the pipes, a failure in the process of treating the water, a cross-connection or increased run-off getting into the water source after a heavy rain are possible causes of bacterial contamination, according to a news release from the village

The village's water supplier, Illinois American Water, was notified. This weekend, all Plainfield water towers, as well as the ground storage tank, will be inspected. Hydrants will be flushed, and the water will be sampled extensively, the release said.

In the meantime, do not drink the water without boiling it first to kill the bacteria. This means bringing the water to a boil, let it continue boiling for three to five minutes and then letting it cool before using, the release said.

Any water used for drinking, in food preparation, making ice, washing dishes or brushing teeth must be boiled until further notice. Otherwise, use bottled water only.

This boil order remains in place until two sets of 40 water samples are determined satisfactory.

Additional guidelines are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

For more information, contact Allen Persons at 815-436-3577 or 14400 S. Coil Plus Drive, Plainfield, Illinois, 60544.

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News Headline: Could Benton Harbor water crisis be the next Flint?; Groups ask EPA to intervene because of high lead levels | ⊠

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Detroit Free Press

Outlet State: MI

News Text: "For at least three years, the people of Benton Harbor have been living with contaminated water."

The Rev. Edward Pinkney, president of the grassroots Benton Harbor Community Water Council

Citing an ongoing risk of lead poisoning to residents of Benton Harbor through their public drinking water, 20 environmental and public advocacy organizations on Thursday filed a petition with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, urging federal intervention to secure safe water supplies for the southwest Michigan city's nearly 10,000 residents.

"For at least three years, the people of Benton Harbor have been living with contaminated water. We urgently need

safe, clean water right now - today," the Rev. Edward Pinkney, a faith leader in the community and president of the grassroots Benton Harbor Community Water Council, said in an online news conference.

As was the case with Flint's water crisis, which began in 2014, the excessive lead levels are believed to be coming from corroding, old, lead water pipes - either the city's old lead lines, the residential lines leading from the city system to home's taps, or both.

In Flint, the city switched from a Detroit water supply to Flint River water at the direction of then-Gov. Rick Snyder's administration, without using necessary water additives to deter lead corrosion from entering the water. It exposed the population to excessive lead levels in their drinking water for months. Michigan and other defendants are finalizing a more than \$641 million settlement to class-action lawsuits stemming from the contamination.

Nicholas Leonard, executive director of the nonprofit Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, which helped spearhead the Benton Harbor petition to the EPA, said that since fall 2018, more than 60 homes in the city have tested for lead levels in their drinking water that exceed the federal government's lead action level of 15 parts per billion. One home tested for 889 parts per billion, nearly 60 times the federal safety limit.

"It's very troubling to see - especially with Flint still being so fresh in our minds, and Flint still in a lot of ways dealing with these problems today - to see another community of color, another low-income community, deal with the same long-standing persistent problem of high levels of lead in their drinking water."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Wednesday proposed to seek "every federal, state and local resource available" to provide Benton Harbor with \$20 million to replace old pipes, part of a \$200 million proposed investment in lead pipe removal statewide.

Pinkney, while thanking the governor, said that won't help with the most urgent problem: Benton Harbor's residents right now, every day, drinking water that may have excessive levels of lead.

"We are asking the federal government to provide an emergency supply of drinking water to Benton Harbor residents," he said. "We need help now for our elders, our children. Lead is poison."

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, no safe level of lead in children has been identified. Adverse affects from excessive exposure to the heavy metal include:

Damage to the brain and nervous system

Slowed growth and development

Learning and behavior problems

Hearing and speech problems

High lead exposure also has been tied to lower IQ, decreased ability to pay attention and underperformance in school.

Stacey Branscumb, a Benton Harbor resident, said he noticed problems in his water when his aquarium fish died quickly after being exposed to it. A Great Dane he bought for his wife as a Christmas president also became ill and died after drinking the water. And a grandchild who is asthmatic had strong reactions around the water. Branscumb later learned his water tested for more than 460 parts per billion of lead.

"There are still a lot of people here who are unaware of how much lead is in the water, and what effects it can have on you," he said.

The state's response to the lead crisis in Benton Harbor has been inadequate, said Cyndi Roper, Michigan senior policy advocate for the environmental nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council's Safe Water Initiative.

"Michigan's response to this lead and water crisis has been plagued by delay and failure," she said. "Benton Harbor requires an all-hands-on-deck approach from the EPA, from Gov. Whitmer and from the state's congressional delegation."

In an email to the Free Press on Thursday, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy spokesman Scott Dean said the agency "has been working diligently" with the city to reduce lead in the drinking

water.

The city installed corrosion control treatment technology at its water plant in March 2019, Dean said. EGLE helped Benton Harbor secure a \$5.9 million EPA grant for lead line replacement and a corrosion control study that's underway, and the city has begun the process of replacing an estimated 6,000 water service lines, many of which are suspected to be lead, he said.

At the EGLE's request, the city also has increased the monitoring of lead and copper in drinking water.

Benton Harbor City Manager Ellis Mitchell did not return Free Press messages Thursday.

Leonard didn't dispute the actions the state and local governments have taken. But the facts remain: Lead has tested at excessive levels for at least three years, and residents are still drinking the water.

"That's why we think this is an emergency - because we don't think there's been an adequate response at the state level," he said.

Efforts to distribute faucet water filtration systems by local health officials also have been lacking, Pinkney said.

"Our water department, they have been supplying water filters to our community. (But) they have failed our community," he said. "They've failed to educate people about the water filters. They've failed to even help put them on the faucet. We went to numerous homes and found that the water filter was sitting on their sink. They didn't have the knowledge, the senior citizens, to put it on."

There's recent precedent for the EPA using its emergency powers under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to take action in a community with high lead levels in its water. EPA in July issued an emergency administrative order in Clarksburg, West Virginia, directing the community's water board to identify homes and businesses with lead service lines and provide an alternative source of drinking water or filters certified to remove lead to all customers who may be impacted by the lead exposure.

Leonard noted that in Clarksburg, only a few sites tested for excessive lead levels, and there was concern over a lack of data about more widespread problems. In Benton Harbor, the problem has been known for years. He noted that about 92% of Clarksburg's residents are white, while more than 85% of Benton Harbor's are Black.

"Benton Harbor is an environmental justice community," he said.

The EGLE is urging Benton Harbor residents to contact the Berrien County Health Department for a free faucet water filter if they don't yet have one; to flush the water in their pipes each morning before using it for drinking or cooking; to clean faucet aerators, and to cook with and drink water only from the cold-water tap, not the hot-water tap.

The EPA has received the petition to intervene in Benton Harbor, and is "carefully considering the issues and concerns raised by this community," spokesman Tim Carroll said.

He noted Benton Harbor was one of 10 communities to participate in roundtable discussions with the EPA highlighting the experience of the cities with lead in drinking water as part of the EPA's review of the Lead and Copper Rule revisions.

Contact Keith Matheny: 313-222-5021 or kmatheny@freepress.com

"For at least three years, the people of Benton Harbor have been living with contaminated water."

The Rev. Edward Pinkney, president of the grassroots Benton Harbor Community Water Council

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News Headline: E. Coli Contamination In Plainfield Water: Village | U

News Date: 09/10/2021 Outlet Full Name: Patch **Outlet State: NY** 

News Text: ...on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water

Hotline at 800-426-4791. (For more...

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News Headline: Consider exclusion fencing around waterways | 🖾

News Date: 09/11/2021

Outlet Full Name: Ashland Times-Gazette

Outlet State: OH

**News Text:** You don't have to drive far across Ashland County to see that livestock play an important role in our agricultural economy. And I have to confess: although I always enjoy seeing the different seasons of our county's grain crops as a drive through the county, it's the pastures filled with livestock that truly bring a smile to my face.

Unfortunately, what I also see too often are severely eroded stream banks cutting through those pastures and cattle congregating in their own version of a "pool party" in those streams.

Although the cartoon vision of a cattle pool party that plays in my head makes me laugh, the reality of the consequences of those cattle in the creeks makes me cringe.

One of the most common, most cited sources of impairment to the water quality in Ashland County is bacteria in our waterways. Despite our county's thriving, river-based tourism economy, the reality is that only 13% of the site sampled by Ohio EPA in 2014 met water quality recreational use standards, with bacteria from manure runoff and failing septic systems identified as significant contributors.

One of the simplest practices farmers can install to help reduce manure runoff from entering our waters is livestock exclusion fencing and the best news is, Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) partners with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) to provide 100% cost share for up to \$10,000 of fencing to producers within MWCD's jurisdictional boundaries.

Why should you care about excluding your animals from the streams in your pastures?

If you're a livestock producer, you may wonder why you should care about excluding your animals from the streams in your pastures. The answer is simple and in two parts: to be a better steward of your land and to improve your bottom line.

Despite the popular narrative that paints farmers as the "bad guys" when it comes to creating water quality issues, there's not a single farmer who I personally know who does not want to do what's best for the long-term sustainability and viability of their farm. Excluding livestock from streams helps producers become better stewards in several ways: it reduces streambank erosion and soil loss, it reduces manure runoff and bacteria entering our waterways, and it improves wildlife habitat.

But in addition to those environmental benefits, livestock exclusion fencing can improve your bottom line. After implementing stream exclusion fencing, beef producers commonly see an increase in cattle weight gain, dairy producers see increased milk production (and butterfat) and all cattle producers commonly experience decreased disease presence in their herds.

Replace on-stream watering with off-stream watering facilities

Replacing on-stream watering with off-stream watering facilities improves the cleanliness and quality of water cattle are consuming. Plus, stream access can explore cattle to harmful organisms, including those that cause foot rot, environmental mastitis, jaundice, fever, red nose, bovine virus diarrhea and tuberculosis.

So with all of these benefits, what's holding you back? We invite you to join us on Sept. 29 at Sycamore Valley Farms in Ashland for our Conservation Chat: Don't Fence Me In to learn more about the benefits of installing livestock exclusion fencing and the cost-share opportunities available. The evening also will include a pasture walk with grazing expert Bob Hendershot and a free meal featuring food grown right on-site at Sycamore Valley Farms.

Registration is free, but pre-registration is required to make sure we have enough materials (and food!) on-hand for all participants. For more information or to register, call the Ashland SWCD office at 419-281-7645.

Jane Houin is the district program administrator for Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District.

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News Headline: Petition filed with EPA over Benton Harbor water lead levels | 🖾

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-Palladium, The

Outlet State: MI

**News Text:** BENTON HARBOR â€" Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposal to give Benton Harbor \$20 million to replace lead water service lines in the city over the next five years is great, but not enough, said Jill Ryan, executive director of Freshwater Future based in Petoskey.

"Five years is still a long time. The residents need immediate assistance to get access to filters and clean drinking water," she said when contacted by phone Thursday.

Freshwater Future was one of 20 organizations that filed a petition Thursday with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for emergency action under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

The 35-page petition states that residents "continue to live with significant and dangerous levels of lead contamination three years after the contamination was first discovered with no immediate solution in sight."

Benton Harbor has been required to test its drinking water every six months since October 2018, when routine testing found that the amount of lead in the drinking water of sampled homes exceeded the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

The petition states that over the past three years, the city and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) have failed to take timely action to correct the problem.

Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in "behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia," the petition states.

Even though officials have installed corrosion control systems at the city's water plant, Ryan said the amount of lead in the tap water has increased over the past three years. During corrosion control, chemicals are added to the water to coat lead pipes so lead doesn't leak from them.

She said this is important because even after all of the city's water service lines are replaced, there could still be lead plumbing inside the house.

"Replacing the lead service lines will reduce the amount of lead in the water, but won't solve the problem," she said.

City officials have repeatedly said the water leaving the city's water plant has no lead in it, meaning the lead is coming from water service lines or from the plumbing inside the house.

An ongoing effort

Municipalities have historically only been required to replace lead water lines up to the property line of a residence.

As of Jan. 1, municipalities are required to pay to replace the lead service lines up to a few inches within the house.

The petition lists several action steps that it says need to be taken. They include that residents be given technical and financial resources so they have a free source of safe drinking water and that the EPA make grants available to the city to assist in getting safe drinking water to residents.

Also listed on the petition was the Benton Harbor Community Water Council, led by Edward Pinkney of Benton Township.

"While we thank Gov. (Gretchen) Whitmer for the \$20 million to replace Benton Harbor's lead service lines, the lead in water situation in Benton Harbor is and has been for the past three years a dire emergency," he said in a news release. "We have watched our children, loved ones, and my fellow community members be subjected to high lead in water levels. It has been a struggle to get our water utility to properly test and protect the community from these high levels of lead."

Nick Leonard, the executive director of the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, said his group has tried to intervene previously to no avail.

"A number of petitioners met with folks at EGLE in late 2019 to talk about things we thought were problematic with their response," Leonard said in the release. "And their answer at the time was, things are under control, lead levels are going down, we've got this. And that simply wasn't the case."

Leonard said in recent sampling periods, lead levels have been higher than in the initial lead exceedance in the fall of 2018.

"There's been ... a lack of urgency, a lack of response that we found really troubling," he said. "Benton Harbor residents have been living with this for far too long."

Whitmer's plan, which was announced Wednesday, includes expanding the program that already exists where city residents are able to get free water filters and cartridges from the Berrien County Health Department to filter out lead in their water.

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News Headline: Petition filed with EPA over Benton Harbor water lead levels |

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-Palladium Online, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...was one of 20 organizations that filed a petition Thursday with the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency for emergency action...

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News Headline: Contract awarded for crumbling road repair |

News Date: 09/10/2021

Outlet Full Name: Times-Reporter, The

Outlet State: OH

**News Text:** NEW PHILADELPHIA – A western Ohio company has been awarded a contract to make repairs to the south end of Waterworks Hill Road, which has been crumbling since a dam on Big Stillwater Creek in Uhrichsville was removed last year.

Commissioners on Wednesday awarded the contract to Precise Pile Driving Inc. of Fort Recovery, Ohio, in the amount of \$312,612 on the recommendation of Engineer Joe Bachman.

The company was one of seven to bid on the project.

The work involves driving pilings for 750 feet along the banks of the creek to stabilize the highway. The project has a completion date of Dec. 31.

The road has been closed since the pavement began to crumble in October 2020. The slip was noticed a day after the dam was removed.

The dam, which was owned by the Twin City Water & Sewer District, was removed on the recommendation of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

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